



## DRAGON ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

Keesler News photographer

Where do you want to be in your career 10 years from now?



Hopefully I will be an NCO by then excelling in my job.

**Airman 1st Class Daniel Catapano, 332nd Training Squadron student**



I want to be a weather officer and have earned my master's degree in environmental science.

**Airman 1st Class Mari-ann Reilly, 335th TRS student**



Excelling in my career field, having a family with my wife and going overseas.

**Airman Charlie Hulse, 338th TRS student**

## KEESLER NEWS

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**THUNDER ON THE BAY**

**APRIL 4 - 5, 2009**

**KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE**

**BILOXI MISSISSIPPI**

Air Show & Open House open to the public!

**FREE ADMISSION**

**Gates Open at 9 a.m.**

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## He's an Airman forever

By Tech. Sgt. Chuck Marsh

81st Training Wing Public Affairs

**Editor's note: Sergeant Marsh is currently deployed to Afghanistan.**

He's in your way at the base exchange when you're in a hurry. He's the one pushing the cart in front of you at the commissary taking up the whole aisle. He's the one driving the Cadillac 30 miles an hour on the highway — in the fast lane — and in front of you with his blinker on the entire time. He's the one wearing the thick, 1970s style glasses and a crisp, meticulously cared for baseball cap with his unit from World War II, Korea or Vietnam proudly displayed on it. He's the one with a smile on his face as you rush past him on your way to nowhere fast.

He's a retiree. He's proud of it. He wears it on his ball cap and on his sleeve; in his heart and in his eyes.

He's in the exchange and the commissary as he has been for who knows how many years because it's what he knows and where he's sur-

rounded by the people he knows and is comfortable with. They're still the same no matter what their ages or service; an Airman will always be an Airman; so will a Soldier, Sailor, Marine and Coast Guardsman.

And he's driving slowly in the fast lane because in his years he's learned that you will eventually get where you need to be when you need to be there. (No excuse for the blinker though.) He's wearing thick glasses because of the strain he put his eyes through while crouching in a foxhole or peering from a watchtower in some strange country far from home staying alert for hours on end as his mind and the shadows play tricks on him.

Most importantly, he's wearing his unit's cap proudly because of the men and women he trained, fought, bled and cried with; many of whom are no longer around to wear their unit's cap.

He's your proud heritage, your tradition of honor and your legacy of valor.

He's you. Can you be him?

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